



REMARKS

The Office Action rejected each of the outstanding claims as being obvious over a combination of the *Chan et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,546) in view of the *Kobayashi* (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,122) when further taken in view of the *Kido* (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,546).

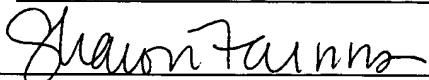
The *Kobayashi* reference was filed on July 22, 1998, while the *Kido* reference was filed on May 5, 1999.

Attached hereto are certified translations of our priority documents which provide an effective U.S. filing date of April 30, 1998. In view of the submission of these English translations along with the certified priority documents, it is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance, and an early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 13, 2005.

By: Sharon Farnus



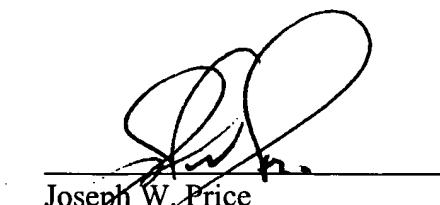
A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Sharon Farnus".

Signature

Dated: June 13, 2005

Very truly yours,

**SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.**



A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Joseph W. Price".

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